

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

June 10, 2005

Dedications of new public libraries

I attended the dedication of the new Pierce City branch of the Barry Lawrence Regional library. This was a joyous occasion. The new branch doubles the space of the previous building which was destroyed in the May 4, 2003 tornado. Representative Jack Goodman did a fine speech commending the community for its efforts. David H. Jones was instrumental in procuring the new space and was honored at the ceremony. Most interesting was a patchwork quilt of the United States which had a button for each community and foreign country sending books to the library.

Webb City also dedicated its new municipal library. Representative Bryan Stevenson was key note speaker. The dedication also featured music by the Webb City High School. This building is outstanding in matching the original façade of the Carnegie.

A grand opening for the new Arnold branch of the Jefferson County library was held on Sunday, May 1. Representative Tim Meadows was the keynote speaker. He commended the board, staff, and community for the new facility. He also recognized the partnership the library formed with the Community Recreation Center which is attached to the library. Nathaniel Albers represented the State Library at the ceremonies.

Missourians travel to Washington, DC to lobby Congress on behalf of libraries

This year's delegation to the American Library Association's sponsored Legislative Day was somewhat smaller than past groups. Public libraries were well represented by citizens and friends. No public library directors were a part of the delegation. This year for the first time there were no academic librarians as part of the delegation.

The major topics discussed in each Congressional office were the need for funding the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at the President's recommended level and full funding for the Literacy through School Libraries Act. Specific mention of E-rate funding was also important.

Friends Of Wolfner Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Annual Meeting

The Friends of Wolfner Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped held their annual meeting on April 23, 2005. The luncheon speaker was Christine Parsons, a junior at Northwest High School in House Springs who was the grand prize winner of the Fourth Annual National Braille Challenge Invitation. Christine is a very poised, intelligent young woman who spoke of her experience at the Braille competition. Ken Gilliam received an award for 30 years of service at Wolfner Library. Keynote speaker was Martha Harmon Pardee, winner of the 2004 Alexander

Scourby Award for Fiction. She was an excellent storyteller regaling us with tales from her life and also reading sections to us from her favorite author, Anne Lamott.

Volunteer Recording Booth

Following the Friends of Wolfner Library annual meeting on April 23, 2005, an open house was held for the new Wolfner Recording Booth. Attendees were invited to tour the booth, and experience the actual recording of a book. A live demonstration on how to use the equipment was provided with Martha Harmon Pardee narrating "If I Were a Lion" by Sarah Weeks, and Deborah Stroup monitoring

Reference Services

The top priority for the Reference Services Department is the electronic State Publications Access Program. Since the legislation took effect 8/28/04, the staff has been working diligently to create the new program.

There have been challenges along the way. OCLC released a new cataloging program called Connexion which our staff had to learn. We gained access to OCLC Digital Archive, the product which creates our trusted repository, in November 2004. This new product has a steep learning curve.

We have learned many things during the last 6 months. Among them:

- Agencies present publications on the web in an endless variety of ways, usually due to either convenience or perceived usability. The current Digital Archive harvester assumes and supports only very straightforward patterns of web distribution as well as presenting the harvested objects. This combination of varying distribution patterns and limitations of the harvester and presentation within the Digital Archive force staff to constantly make difficult choices concerning what is described in the bibliographic record and how publications are ultimately presented to repository users.
- OCLC Digital Archive is not fully developed. We met with staff from OCLC and learned about the new modules which are under development. That development should be completed within the next 18 months. We now have access to two of the newest modules which will help our project greatly.
- For the near future, it will take more staff than we have had assigned to this project.
- Difficulty of moving the publications into the digital archive has resulted in the issuance of MO State Government Publications less frequently than in the past.

Accomplishment and actions we have taken or will be taking shortly:

- We have reduced the flow of paper copies from 45 to 5 for each publications sent to us.
- We are concentrating on the newest publications in an effort to speed the project. Initially we were harvesting all years of a title available on an agency web site. Our goal was to

have digital copies whenever available. This retro gathering has stopped for now, since we have those older publications in our paper legacy collection.

- Our staff has become proficient with OCLC Connexion and Digital Archive. We are reassigning work and moving more staff hours to the publications project. We now have 1 professional dedicated full-time to this project. We also have a Technician II who is assigned full-time and another who will be assigned for 10 hours per week.
- The process of producing MO State Government Publications has been automated and made much simpler than before.

Gates Staying Connected Grant

There are three components to the Staying Connected grant awarded to the State Library by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. All components of this 3 year grant have started.

Hardware

Seventy-two applications for hardware upgrades were received in May by eligible libraries. These applications are being reviewed and award notifications will be sent by the end of June. This should help many libraries upgrade old Gates computers and other machines that have outlived their usefulness as public access computers.

Training

An agreement has been drafted, topics have been chosen, and classes scheduled as part of the training component of this grant. Nine classes will be offered as well as a trainer's camp and a conference geared towards library staff with computer training labs. MOREnet, MLNC, and Springfield-Greene Library are the training providers. These classes will be delivered as in person sessions and via Centra depending on the topic.

Technical Support

Remote Vulnerability Audits (RVA's) and network assessments have been started on select libraries as part of this program. MOREnet and the State Library worked together in selecting libraries for these services. The RVA's will help libraries identify ways to make their computer networks more secure and the network assessments will help the library make their computer services run as smoothly as possible.

2005 Trustee Academy

The 2005 Trustee Academy had 32 participants from 26 libraries across the state. Our goal to better cover the Northwestern section of the state was accomplished. The presenters were well prepared and sustained an alert and interactive pace.

The following topics were discussed and illustrated: Trustee essential roles & responsibilities, building and maintaining solid relations with the library director, evaluating and updating policies, fiscal matters and legal issues. The handouts and examples provided by both presenters were adequate and the participants asked many questions that were addressed in an appropriate and timely manner.

2005 Summer Institute

The 2005 Summer Institute will be held August 2-5 at the Best Western in Columbia. The Institute will feature a Basic Course, an Advanced Course on Library Services for Children and an Advanced Course on Library Classification. Registration will open the week of June 6 and the deadline for registration is July 18.

Center for the Book

The Letters About Literature ceremony was held on April 13, honoring the twelve Missouri students selected as winners. Secretary of State Robin Carnahan hosted the ceremony in the State Capitol Rotunda, and after students read their winning entries and collected their awards, a reception was held at Secretary Carnahan's Capitol office. Letters About Literature is a national writing contest for students in grades 4 through 12. To enter, students write a personal letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. This year almost 900 students in Missouri entered the contest.

Science fiction fans gathered in St. Louis on May 14 to attend Alternate Worlds: Science Fiction Genre Forum, sponsored and organized by the Missouri Center for the Book and the Schlafly branch of the St. Louis Public Library. Robin Bailey, Carolyn Ives Gilman, Sharon Shinn, Nisi Shawl, and Mark W. Tiedemann discussed the genre and their writing, and participated in a question and answer session followed by a book signing. The event was free and open to the public.

The Center also hosted an exhibit at the Arrow Rock antiquarian book sale and garden show on May 14, showcasing a selection from the Missouri Authors Collection and distributing bookmarks and other materials to participants. The event included gardening seminars and author readings, including Authorene Wilson Phillips (*Arrow Rock: The Story of a Missouri Village*), Steven B. Carroll (*Ecology for Gardeners*), and Michael Dickey (*Arrow Rock: Crossroads of the Missouri Frontier*).

Missouri State Library Continuing Education Committee

The Missouri State Library Continuing Education Committee met on March 24, 2005. The committee discussed several issues and projects to promote continuing education for library staff in Missouri. The State Library, along with other training providers, is offering more training opportunities through web-based and desktop-deliverable formats. The CE Committee began a discussion on evaluating the effectiveness of these learning formats. The committee also discussed the need for more management training opportunities as well as the role of continuing education in preparing library staff to succeed their current directors and managers. Two work groups have been formed within the committee. One group has been formed to suggest possible updates to the online CE Calendar hosted on the State Library website. Another group will review information compiled by the training providers about the current training opportunities through out the state. It will also assess the current accessibility of training as well as suggest future topics for the training providers to consider.

Missouri State Library Scholarship Program

We received 17 applications for the State Library Scholarship program from students attending the Fall 2005 semester. Applications are currently under review; we hope to make announcements by July 1. 24 students are enrolled in the summer semester and three plan to complete their degree programs at the end of the semester. Betty Herndon completed her work commitment as a School Library Media Specialist at Osage County R2 School District.

St. Joseph Literacy Luncheon

Missouri Secretary of State, Robin Carnahan was the keynote speaker at the 2005 Literacy Luncheon of the St. Joseph Area Literacy Coalition on Monday, May 2, on the campus of Missouri Western State College. In the St. Joseph area literacy is a bi-state community effort. The coalition includes: libraries, school districts, church and community service organizations, government agencies, state and private colleges, and for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. The annual luncheon is coordinated by the coalition to recognize volunteers and organizations in their efforts to improve the local literacy rate and raise awareness of how low literacy skills impact individuals and the community. Marge Kudrna, Literacy Consultant, represented the State Library.

Training and Continuing Education

Building Bridges Workshops

In April, the Missouri State Library presented a series of three “Building Bridges,” workshops on library services for Latino populations in Carrollton, Cape Girardeau, and Springfield. The presenter for these workshops was Dr. Denice Adkins, an assistant professor at the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies at the University of Missouri –Columbia. She provided participants with an opportunity to explore the topics of bilingual outreach services, collaboration with community agencies and organizations, program development, staff involvement, web resources in Spanish and multicultural and bilingual collection development. Positive feedback from workshop attendees indicated that the content would be useful in developing and extending programs for bilingual patrons.

In April, the Missouri State Library presented two Ellis Academic Software training sessions in University City and Sedalia to train key staff from 6 libraries that were part of a pilot program in utilization of the Ellis English training software program. The program offers over 2000 hours of instruction which includes topics like shopping, using public transportation, and getting medical attention. The program utilizes watch, listen to, interact, read and learn activities approach to learning English in authentic situations. The program is useful with patrons even if they are not literate in their native language. The presenter for these sessions was Dorothy Young of O'Donnell Ed Resources, the local representative for Ellis Software.

Show-Me-Steps Grants

The Show Me Steps program continues to fund grant requests for all types of workshops, conferences and web-based courses. Thirty-seven grants have been approved this fiscal year.

The following LSTA grants totaling \$13,172 were awarded in May-August 2005 to begin May 1, 2005.

Bring in An Expert

Kent Library, SEMOSU	\$ 3,446.00
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Spotlight on Library Programs

McDonald County Library, Senior Fair	\$ 1,900.00
Wellsville Public Library, Summer Reading Medieval Fair	\$ 650.00

Training and Professional Development

MLNC	\$ 6,476.00
St. Louis County Library	\$ 700.00